Question on Notice
No. 291
Asked on 22 March 2011

MR DICKSON asked the Premier and Minister for Reconstruction (MS BLIGH)—

With reference to the latest review by the Federal Government's chief climate change advisor (Ross Garnaut) which states that some Australian cities, currently susceptible to one in one hundred year extreme sea level rises, might be affected every year in the future—

Does the Premier and her government agree with the advice from Ross Garnaut?

ANSWER:

In his latest review on the science of climate change released on 10 March 2011, Professor Ross Garnaut used a number of examples to illustrate the significant implications for extreme sea level events for a sea level rise at the low end of recent estimates.

The Queensland Government accepts Professor Garnaut's advice that sea levels are continuing to rise at a rate considerably higher than the average rate over the twentieth century. The Queensland Government also agrees with his advice that emerging research indicates higher levels of sea level rise are likely to result in more intense sea level events like storm surges.

The Queensland Government is committed to addressing these risks, which is why we released a new Queensland Coastal Plan that incorporates a sea level rise factor of 80cm up to 2100, based on the upper limits projected in the latest report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. This anticipated rate of sea level rise has been used to determine areas projected to be at risk from coastal hazards over this timeframe.

The Queensland Coastal Plan provides direction on how to manage the impacts of coastal hazards, including permanent inundation from sea level rise, on the Queensland coast and improve the resilience of Queensland communities.

On 5 April 2011, the Queensland Government also released a new scientific report which focuses on the predicted impacts of climate change on cyclones as a specific category of extreme weather events. The *Queensland Coastal Processes and Climate Change Report* found that Queensland could anticipate cyclones in the medium to longer term to increase in severity, but they are likely to occur at about the same frequency.